WORLD / A28



Pope moves John Paul, Pius XII closer to sainthood

METRO / A25

SC rules MMDA can't remove billboards, ads posted on MRT3

ACROSS / A17

SBMA takes over facilities of debt-ridden casino

LEARNING / G1

A field study program on a Caribbean island

UN climate role may weaken, say experts

COPENHAGEN—A WEAK UN CLIMATE deal, agreed on Saturday after two weeks of talks pulled back from near collapse, underscored the vulnerability of a process depending on consensus and may mark a diminishing UN role.

The principal negotiations took place among about 30 countries and the biggest breakthrough involved just

UN CLIMATE A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, December 21, 2009 • Fourteen / Vol. 25 / No. 11 P18

Mega-Baby says goodbye to 'yaya'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

SHE WAS NO ORDINARY NANNY.

She had appeared in movies and in TV commercials. In death, her wake will be held at Santuario de San Antonio in posh Forbes Park in Makati City.

Lorena Benitez, or Yaya Luring as she is known in show biz circles, in the eyes of

MEGA-BABY A11

Phivolcs says Mayon big blast within days

50,000 face masks handed out to villagers

By Rey M. Nasol
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—ALBAY health officials on Sunday started distributing some 50,000 face masks to villagers in areas affected by ash fall from Mount Mayon as authorities raised the alert level around the volcano.

Volcanologists warned of a possible hazardous eruption within days and extended a "no-go zone" up to 10 kilometers.

Mayon, the most active of 22 volcanoes in the country, has been spewing ash and burning mud and rocks since Monday.

"We raised the alert level to 4 ... meaning an eruption is within days," chief volcanologist Renato Solidum said after aerial inspection and other observations of the volcano showed increased activity in the past 24 hours.

Level 4 indicates an eruption is imminent and the maximum alert level of 5 means an eruption is under way, he said.

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, 460 volcanic earthquakes were recorded, characteristic of a very heightened activity, according to a resident volcanologist Eduardo Laguerta.

Laguerta said Mayon was manifesting signs of a strong

PHIVOLCS A11



SPLASH OF LIGHTS While motorists slow down in this portion of JP Laurel Avenue in Davao City, pedestrians can't resist taking souvenir shots of the Christmas lights spectacle with an "Under the Sea" theme outside the antique shop "Mesa Casa de Antes Y Amigos Davao."

Finding the inner meaning of Christmas

By Florida Ruth P. Romero
Contributor

WITH THE ONSET OF THE "ber" months in the Philippines, one knows that "Ang Pasko ay sumapit na."

Strains of "Jingle Bells" fill the air. Malls and public places have put up Christmas décor. In accelerating frenzy, people organize parties, set up banners and streamers. Office workers squeeze shopping expeditions in their daily routine. Everyone gets sucked into activities signaling the commercialization of what should properly be a religious event.

Forgotten is what Christmas stands for—the birth of the Lord Jesus. Oh yes, some will protest. Of course, we know the Christmas story in the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke—from His birth in the stable to his Ascension. The significance for the ordinary man is that the Crucifixion of Jesus has saved him from his sins.

The word "Christmas" means "Christ-birth." The "mas" is from the Egyptian "mes," meaning "to be born." "Mes-ich"

FINDING A20

Gonzales seeks more active AFP role in polls

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE DEPARTMENT OF NAtional Defense (DND) is working on an agreement with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) that will provide the military a more active role in the 2010 elections.

Acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales said the new memorandum of agreement (MOA) would allow the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to meet the challenge "head on" instead of "shying away" from its responsibility during elections.

"We will show that the AFP is the true protector of democracy and our people's will. We will prove the detractors of our soldiers wrong," Gonzales said in a statement.

He said a technical working group was studying and working on the details of the agreement that would replace an accord signed in 2006 between the Comelec and the AFP.

GONZALES A11

Ampatuan case takes ironic twist

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE PHILIPPINE JUDICIAL system is caught in the crossfire of an avenging lynch mob and the backlash of the reign of terror of the warlord Ampatuan clan, accused in the massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao. This tension has frayed the edges of the judicial system.

The brutality of the Nov. 23 slaughter has aroused so much anger that when Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., the main suspect, appeared at the justice department for preliminary investigation, a group of journalists broke through his security cordon and attacked him.

They shouted invectives at Ampatuan, and shoved photographs of the mutilated bodies of massacre victims at his face. "Here are the people you killed," the group said. They were demonstrating their anger over

AMPATUAN A4



Gloria goes to HK for holiday treat

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday quietly flew to Hong Kong with her family for a brief pre-Christmas getaway.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said Ms Arroyo was making good on her promise to treat her four grandchildren during the holidays before she resumes her hectic schedule.

GLORIA A21

Giant lanterns talk peace in festival

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Wishes for peace resonated loudly and brightly through giant lanterns that were lit Saturday in the Pampanga capital before some 70,000 spectators on the 101st year of a Christmas festival.

Five of the nine lanterns vying to be declared the champion in this year's Ligligan Parul (Giant Lantern Festival) conveyed the message of peace.

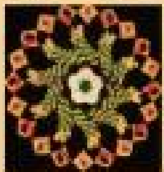
The lanterns of Barangays Sta. Lucia, Dolores, San Nicolas, Telabastagan and Del Pilar either made a straightforward appeal for peace through a pattern of lights that flashed that word or combined the word with lighted images of angels, doves, the Infant Jesus or the Nativity scene.

The message cannot be ignored. The lanterns are 18 feet in diameter or as tall as a two-storey building and as wide as three trucks parked side by

GIANT A20



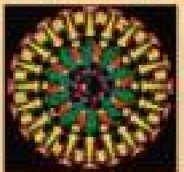
PEACE LANTERN Giant lanterns display a common theme of peace during the festival at the City of San Fernando in Pampanga.



SAN JOSE lantern: Third place



SAN NICOLAS dancing lantern



DOLORES lantern: Winner



SAN PEDRO lantern

CHR slams journalists for attack

By Nikko Dizon

EVEN SUSPECTED MASS MURderers like Andal Ampatuan Jr. have rights.

Leila de Lima, chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), yesterday slammed media men for going "overboard" on Friday when they attacked the alleged mastermind of the election-related massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao Nov. 23.

CHR SLAMS A11

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage



6 10 15 20 29 47

P76,765,939.20

'Pork' hiked in budget, charges solon

SEN. MANUEL ROXAS II YESTERDAY CHARGED the bicameral congressional committee with increasing the national budget for 2010 by "as much as P35 billion" with pork barrel insertions in rush meetings last week.

It's up to GMA

Approval deferred



Maguindanao woman OIC 'right for the job'

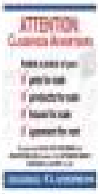
Comelec braces for another rush


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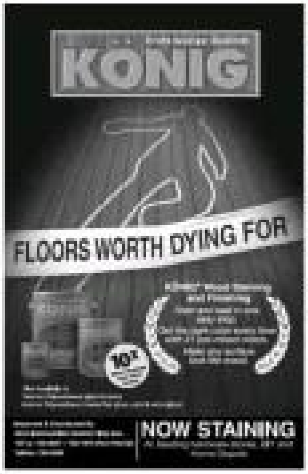


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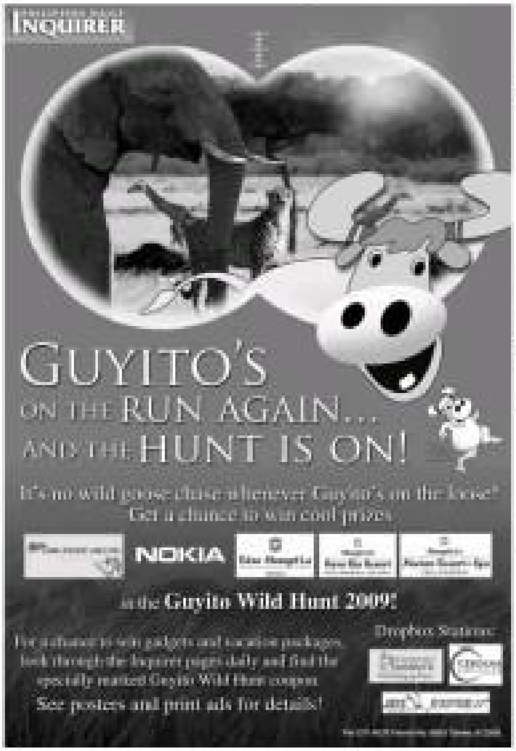


Ampatuan case takes ironic twist



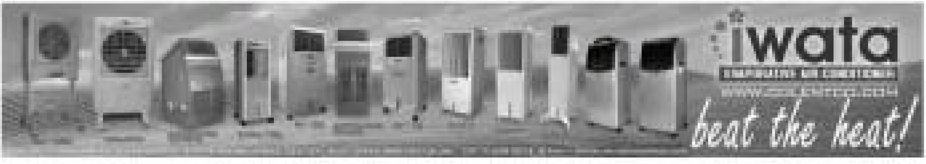


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Global eco group seeks probe of Turtle Islands sale

By Nikko Dizon

Different concept of ownership

Heritage Protected Area

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An advocacy for excellence in medical education

Winthrop's new focus on generics

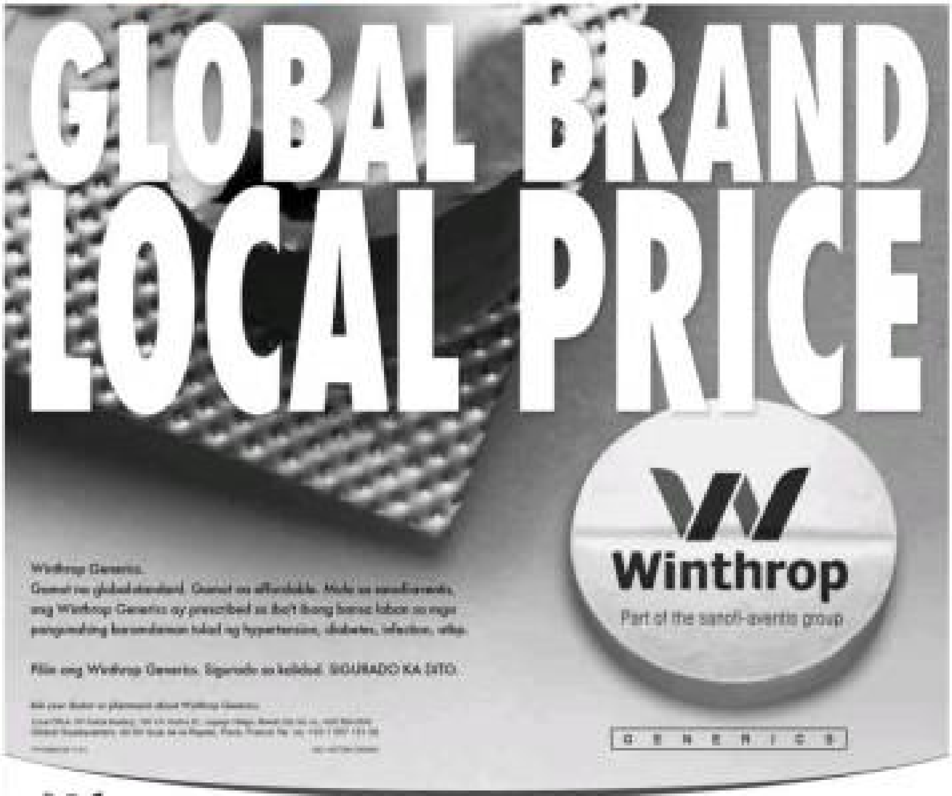
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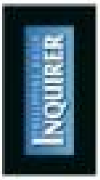
UN cites RP's health care program for school kids

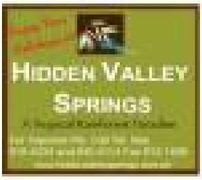
By Philip C. Tubeza



House measure sets one Filipino time







Ex-river residents given jobs training





BANGKOK
SINGAPORE
KUALA LUMPUR / MACAU
BEIJING / SAIGON

Phivolcs says Mayon big blast within days

Expanded no-go zone

Medicines

Clean water

Psychosocial needs

UN climate role may weaken, say experts

UN process

Way is unclear

Need to move quickly

Western pledges

Other options

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A TOXIC-FREE WISH

More Pinoys smuggling illegal drugs, says envoy

Running priest for Lim

Filipino latest survivor of sinking off Lebanon

océ COPIER SALE



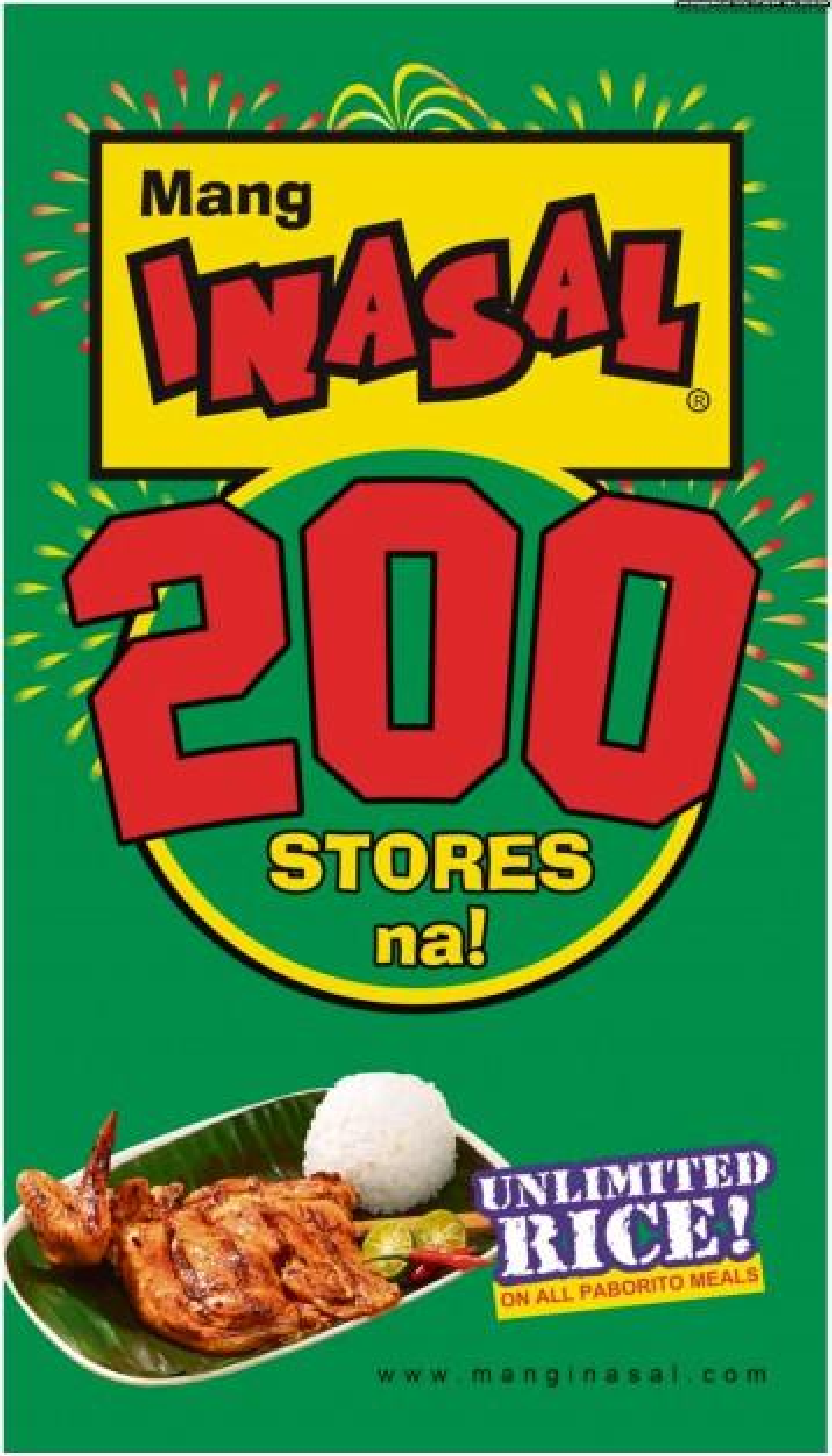
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Holiday excuse

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO LEFT COPENhagen early, missing out on the action where a tumultuous final, early morning session wrapped up days of "high politics and low cunning," as The Guardian put it, "after a night of extraordinary drama," amid "leaks, suspicion, recrimination and exhaustion."



The P7.34-B tax dispute between BOC and Shell

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Nuisance

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CHEd attempts 'martial law' over school accreditation

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



The lesser gifts

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

The platform problem

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



Finally, handcuffs!

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Reject turncoats

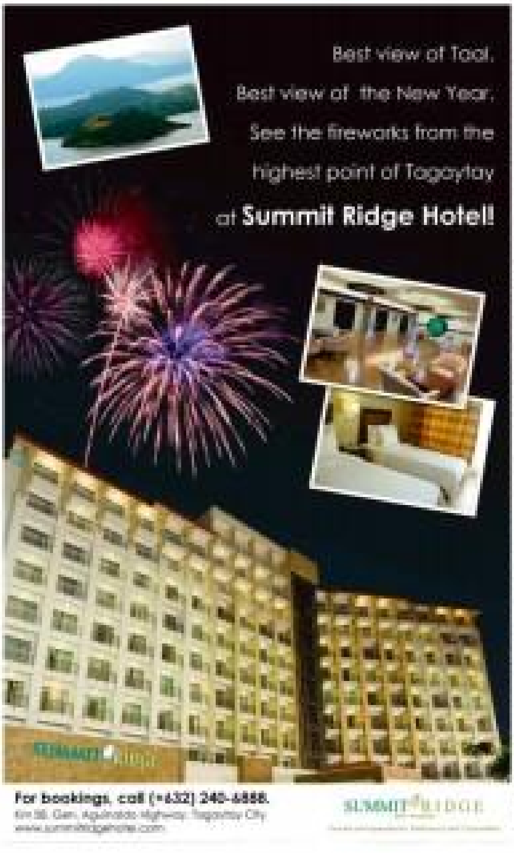
LETTERS

Philippines' biggest warlord has AFP, PNP for its private army



A lot of new Filipino heroes emerging, but are they genuine?





Not traitors but victims of Philippine-American war

Snail-paced 'special' service for senior citizens

More like unrepentant thief in Christ's crucifixion

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

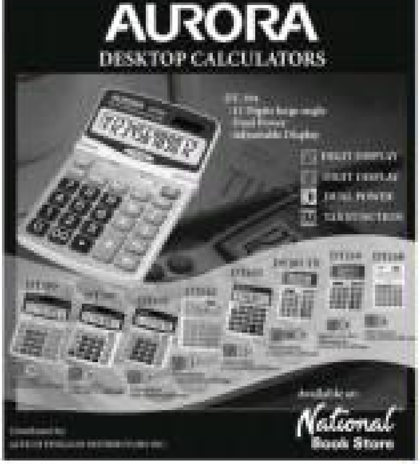
SBMA takes over facilities of debt-ridden casino

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE BATTLE FOR POSSESSION OF THE pieces of property previously owned by a debt-ridden hotel and casino operator in this freeport is over.



Climate change ordinance drafted in Negros Or.

Gov't hospitals to be placed on alert for holidays





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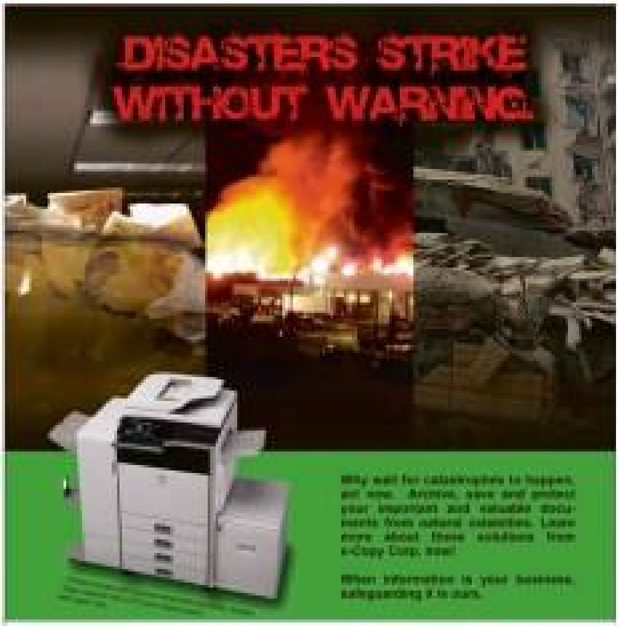


BONTOC HAM

Deloso unfazed by alliance of Ebdane-Magsaysay

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SHARP

Laguna houses turned over to 47 families from Manila

Mega-Baby says goodbye to 'yaya'

Cardiac arrest

Christmas party





Giant lanterns talk peace in festival

Maguindanao massacre

Innovations

Cable rods

Financial support



GIANT LANTERNS of Dolores, San Jose and San Nicolas

Celebration of life

Improved

Canadian

Gloria goes to Hong Kong for holiday treat

Finding the inner meaning of Christmas

Pagan roots

Why December 25?

The Virgin Birth

Hidden meanings

Knowledge bestows power

Nativity in our hearts



CHR slams journalists for attack

From page A1



DE LIMA

Presumed innocent

190 under investigation

Transfer of Ampatuans urged

Gonzales seeks more active AFP role in polls

From page A1

Expanded role

Full disposal

'Hello Garci' scandal



GONZALES

SO THE PUBLIC WILL KNOW

ISSUES:

* The illegal termination of 5,000 employees of the National Power Corporation (NPC) effected by its restructuring in 2003;

* The open defiance of the National Power Board and the NPC President in implementing the final executory decision of the Supreme Court for the payment of their backwages, separation pay and other benefits.

THE RULE OF LAW IS THE BULWARK OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY LIKE OURS. WITHOUT IT, WE WILL HAVE CHAOS AND ANARCHY.

FACTS:

***September 26, 2006** - In G.R No. 156208, **"NPC Drivers and Mechanics Association (DAMA) ET. al., vs. NPC and NP Board, the Supreme Court, Third Division** rendered its decision declaring as void and without legal effect National Power Board (NPB) Resolutions No. 2002-124 and No. 2002-125 both dated 18 November 2002 which directed, inter alia, the termination from the service of all employees of the National Power Corporation (NPC) on 31 January 2003 in line with the restructuring of the NPC and thereafter enjoined the implementation of said resolutions.

***January 24, 2007** - The Supreme Court denied with finality the motion for reconsideration of respondent NPC of said decision for lack of merit.

***June 4, 2007** - The Supreme Court denied the Second Motion for Reconsideration and Motion to Refer the Case En Consulta to the Court En Banc filed by respondent NPC.

***October 27, 2008** - An Entry of Judgment was made, stating that judgment has become final and executory on 10 December 2008 and has been recorded in the Book of Entries of Judgment.

***December 10, 2008** - Supreme Court granted petitioners' Urgent Motion for Execution and issued the following orders: 1. Cause the preparation under oath of: a) the names of all NPC personnel/employees terminated and/or separated as a result of or pursuant to the nullified NPB Board Resolutions No. 2002-124 and No. 2002-125; b) the amounts due to each of them by way of separation pay, backwages, wage adjustments and other benefits in accordance with applicable jurisprudence on illegal dismissal cases, as well as interest due from the time the decision became final and executory. X x x 2. The Chairman and Members of the National Power Board and the President of the NPC to pay or cause to be paid immediately the amounts due to the petitioners and all other illegally dismissed NPC personnel/employees. x x x 3. The Chairman and Members of the National Power Board and the President of the NPC to respectively submit proof of their compliance of the orders x x within thirty (30) days from receipt of this Resolution.

***March 9, 2009** - Respondent NPC thru its counsel, Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), filed its Compliance, **submitting a list of only 16 top level employees (not under oath)** who were terminated by the nullified NP Board resolutions.

***December 2, 2009** - Supreme Court rendered a resolution and issued the following orders: 1. ORDERING the Chairperson, the Members of the NP Board and the NPC President and their counsels (Sol. Gen. Devanadera, Asst. Sol. Gen. del Rosario and Assoc. Sol Mejia) to **SHOW CAUSE why they should not be held in contempt of court for their willful failure to comply with the 10 December 2008 resolution; 2. ORDERING** that PSALM be impleaded or joined as a party-respondent in this case; and 3. ORDERING (again) the Chairperson, Members of the NP Board and the President of the NPC **to comply with the 10 December 2008 resolution with the list to be submitted by them within ten (10) days from notice to the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff of RTC-QC** to contain all the names of all, not 16, NPC personnel/employees affected by the restructuring of NPC with the amounts due them from their date of illegal termination up to September 14, 2007. x x x.

Unknown to the public, the Cabinet Members, who compose the National Power Board (Chairman Margarito Teves, Secretary of Finance and the Members- Secretaries of Energy, DILG, DA, DENR, DTI, DBM, NEDA and President of NPC) have defied the RULE OF LAW BY WILLFULLY REFUSING TO IMPLEMENT THE FINAL AND EXECUTORY DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE CASE."

The NP Board led by its Chairman, Secretary Teves, instead of complying with said final and executory orders (already res judicata) in its recent special joint board meeting with PSALM Board, directed the Office of the Solicitor General to file a Motion for Reconsideration (3rd MR) of said resolution, which is clearly a prohibited pleading, with no other purpose but to delay and frustrate the prompt implementation of said resolution.

It is crystal clear that said government officials have no intention at all to implement the said resolution of the Supreme Court. With the willing collaboration of the Solicitor General, they have willfully abused and trifled with the Rules of Procedure in order to frustrate and delay the prompt implementation of said final and executory orders of the Supreme Court. Such conduct, which is contemptuous, manifests utter disrespect to the Honorable Supreme Court.

BEING TOP OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHO HAVE TAKEN THE OATH TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW, THEY SHOULD BE EXAMPLES IN ITS OBSERVANCE. IF THEY CANNOT ABIDE WITH THE RULE OF LAW, THEY HAVE NO REASON TO REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT, AS WE ARE A GOVERNMENT OF LAWS AND NOT OF MEN, AND SHOULD TENDER THEIR RESIGNATIONS FORTHWITH. HOW CAN THIS GOVERNMENT DEMAND OBEDIENCE TO THE RULE OF LAW FROM ITS CITIZENS, WHEN THE ALTER EGOS OF THE PRESIDENT OPENLY AND BRAZENLY DEFY THE SAME.

WE ARE OUTRAGED AND STRONGLY CONDEMN THE MOCKERY OF THE RULE OF LAW BY SECRETARY TEVES, THE MEMBERS OF THE NP BOARD AND THE NPC PRESIDENT INCLUDING THEIR COUNSELS AND WE WILL NOT ALLOW THEM ANY LONGER TO ABUSE OUR PATIENCE WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO SO FOR TOO LONG NOW (1 year). OUR PATIENCE SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. THEY SHOULD NOT TEST OUR PATIENCE AS IT HAS ALSO ITS LIMITS.

5,000 NPC DAMA and NPC EMPLOYEES CLASS SUIT PETITIONERS.

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SPORTS

Casimero new WBO light fly interim champ



CASIMERO

Payback time for RP Patriots today

Coke Tigers growl, maul frosty Aces



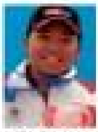
SPORTSWATCH

DL Cruz tops Pasay cockfest

SJC 6-cock derby gets going

Makati 'Salpukan' resumes

Impeccable Ikeda targets Asian Games gold, LPGA



IKEDA: On a high



RTU batters sweep foes, grab lead

'Nutrition, technical officials needed'

Bulls, Rockets turn back foes

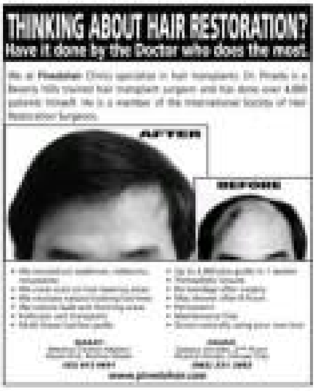


Pavlik scores TKO, keeps crowns



Paeng spreads cheers in Turkey

CLEAN LIVING



Almuete tops NFGB Presidents Cup derby



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MMDA can't demolish train ads, SC rules

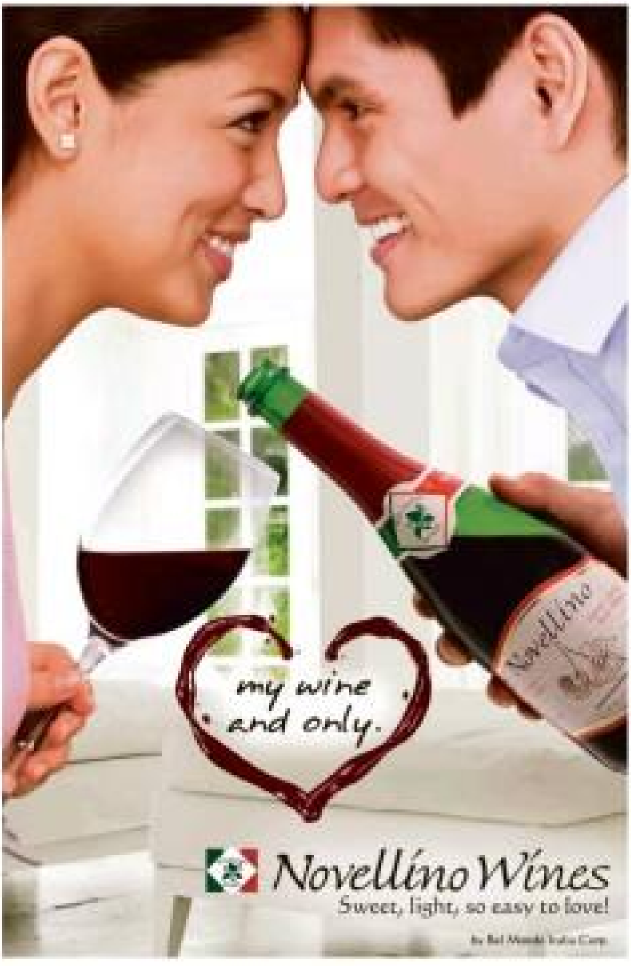
THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) has no power to dismantle billboards and other forms of advertisements posted on structures of the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT 3), according to the Supreme Court.

[illegible]

Makati's Mercado gets a new running mate

By Allison W. Lopez

[illegible]





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Road project causing heavy traffic

Street signs with councilors' names

Buses counter traffic flow

Sleepless in Manila, Makati

QC official issues clarification

Pedicabs new road kings



TRAFFIC-PRONE INTERSECTION

Ivler search goes online

By Nancy C. Carvajal

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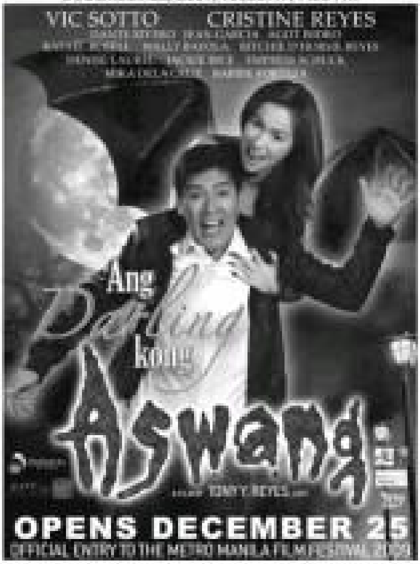
REGAL EXTRAVAGANZA 2009
MANO PO 6
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Iran charges 12 at prison over deaths of protesters

Murder charges filed after months of denials of post-election abuses

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3. **Verify the products and retail sources!** All Crocs™ products, and the list of Crocs™ Concept Stores and authorized retailers are posted in www.crocs.com.ph. If you see a shoe with the Crocs™ brand in a design or color that is not shown on the website, then it is not an authentic Crocs™ product.

Contact the official Crocs Service Centre in the Philippines at Tel: 0916-5918585, for further enquiries regarding the above guidelines and the availability of genuine Crocs™ products in the Philippines.

The WORLD

Editor: Lowell B. Gomez



SEPTEMBER 1945 photo of Pope Pius XII wearing the ring of St. Peter.

Pope moves controversial Pius XII closer to sainthood

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI MOVED CONTROVERSIAL wartime pontiff Pius XII closer to sainthood by declaring him "venerable" in a surprise announcement on Saturday.

The pontiff simultaneously bestowed the same title on his beloved predecessor John Paul II and paved the way for the beatification of Jerzy Popieluszko, the activist priest who helped bring down Poland's communist regime.

The triple announcement by the German-born Pope "took everyone by surprise," Vatican expert Bruno Bartoloni told AFP, adding: "There will certainly be negative reactions" from the Jewish community.

"Not every Jew will be angry, but very influential people in the Jewish world will be very upset," agreed another veteran Vatican watcher, John Allen.

Allen said announcing the decrees on Pius XII simultaneously with the other two reflected "a kind of strategy of taking the sting out of it." The title of "venerable" is a step on the way to beatification and eventual sainthood.

The process for Pius XII has been a source of tension with Jewish groups due to the view among many historians that he remained passive while Nazi Germany killed millions of Jews.

Benedict—who was himself at the center of controversy over his past membership of the Hitler Youth—has publicly defended Pius XII.

The Vatican has argued that Pius XII, who was Pope from 1939 to 1958, saved many Jews by having them hidden in religious institutions in Rome and abroad and that his silence was born out of a wish to avoid aggravating their situation.

"The debate is not about what he did but what he should have done," said Allen, adding: "There are some people who would still say he showed heroic fidelity and charity in difficult circumstances." While Bartoloni said it was "not unlikely" that Pius XII and John Paul II would also be beatified at the same time, Allen disagreed saying: "John Paul II's beatification is more of a done deal." Still, the Polish Pope's sainthood chances have been criticized as a "fast-track" campaign to answer the prayers of millions who adored the Polish Pope, who headed the Roman Catholic Church for nearly three decades.

Benedict launched the lengthy process—which can take decades if not centuries—just two months after the death in 2005 of John Paul II, whose funeral was marked by calls of "Santo Subito" (Saint Now).

The final stage for beatification is providing evidence of a miracle, usually a medical cure with no scientific explanation which is reviewed by several commissions.

In John Paul II's case, the miracle under consideration—and subject to another papal decree—involves a French nun who was cured of Parkinson's disease in 2005.

Vatican watchers expect Benedict to approve the beatification, which could be celebrated next year, either on the April 2 anniversary of John Paul II's death or in October on the anniversary of the start of his papacy in 1978.

Popieluszko's beatification dossier does not require evidence of a miracle because he is considered a martyr. *AFP*







WORLDBRIEFS

Obama health plan gets boost as Christmas deadline looms

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama's top domestic goal, revamping US health care, won the support Saturday of a key holdout senator in a step toward what could be Christmas Eve passage of sweeping legislation. Democratic Senator Ben Nelson's resistance had kept fellow Democrats from corralling the 60 votes needed to ensure Senate passage over resistance from Republicans eager to hand Obama what would be a crippling political defeat. "Change is never easy. But change is what is needed in America today. I will vote for health-care reform," said Nelson, who announced he had secured the tough new restrictions he sought on public money from paying for abortions. The House of Representatives approved similar curbs on its way to passing its own version of the legislation, but abortion-rights Democrats have vowed to strip them when the two chambers craft a final bill for Obama to sign. *AFP*

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, Iran dissident, dies at 87



MONTAZERI

TEHRAN—Leading Iranian dissident the Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once tipped to become Iran's undisputed number one, has died, news agencies reported on Sunday. "Montazeri, 87, died of an illness last night (Saturday)," the ISNA news agency said. Montazeri, once designated as the successor to the founder of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was a strong critic of the Iranian regime. He was also a vocal backer of the Iranian opposition which has rejected the reelection of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in June. *AFP*

Allies unite behind Zardari, vow to fight graft charges

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's ruling party rallied behind President Asif Ali Zardari Saturday and vowed to fight any corruption charges brought against his leaders in a bid to end a damaging political crisis. Trying to ride out what could be the worst challenge to Zardari's troubled 15 months in power, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) made it clear it would not seek any resignations after a court scrapped an amnesty on graft charges. The supreme court's move to annul a decree protecting more than 8,000 people, including Zardari and PPP allies, from graft charges has been welcomed by a public increasingly fed up with the government. The fallout has sparked calls on Zardari to resign, shaking the US-backed coalition at a time of rising extremist attacks and mounting pressure from Washington to cooperate more in the war in neighboring Afghanistan. *AFP*

DELL PowerEdge

BUSINESS

BSP defers risk coverage rule for banks to 2011

Measure to encourage financial institutions to be more prudent

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS DEcided to defer by a year the implementation of a new set of capital requirements for banks that were supposed to take effect starting January 2010.

[illegible]

BSP B4

IN THIS ISSUE

Negotiated deal on RP property in Japan eyed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

[illegible]

NEGOTIATED B2

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Slow trading seen

[illegible]



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2019 Variant					
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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	P1,250,000

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Disturbing, puzzling news on jobs

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[illegible]

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Hard times

[illegible]

Disconnect

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Negotiated deal on RP property in Japan eyed

[illegible]

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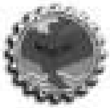
SALES ASSOCIATES

PARTS PICKERS/HANDLERS

PRE-DELIVERY INSPECTORS

LTO LIAISON OFFICERS



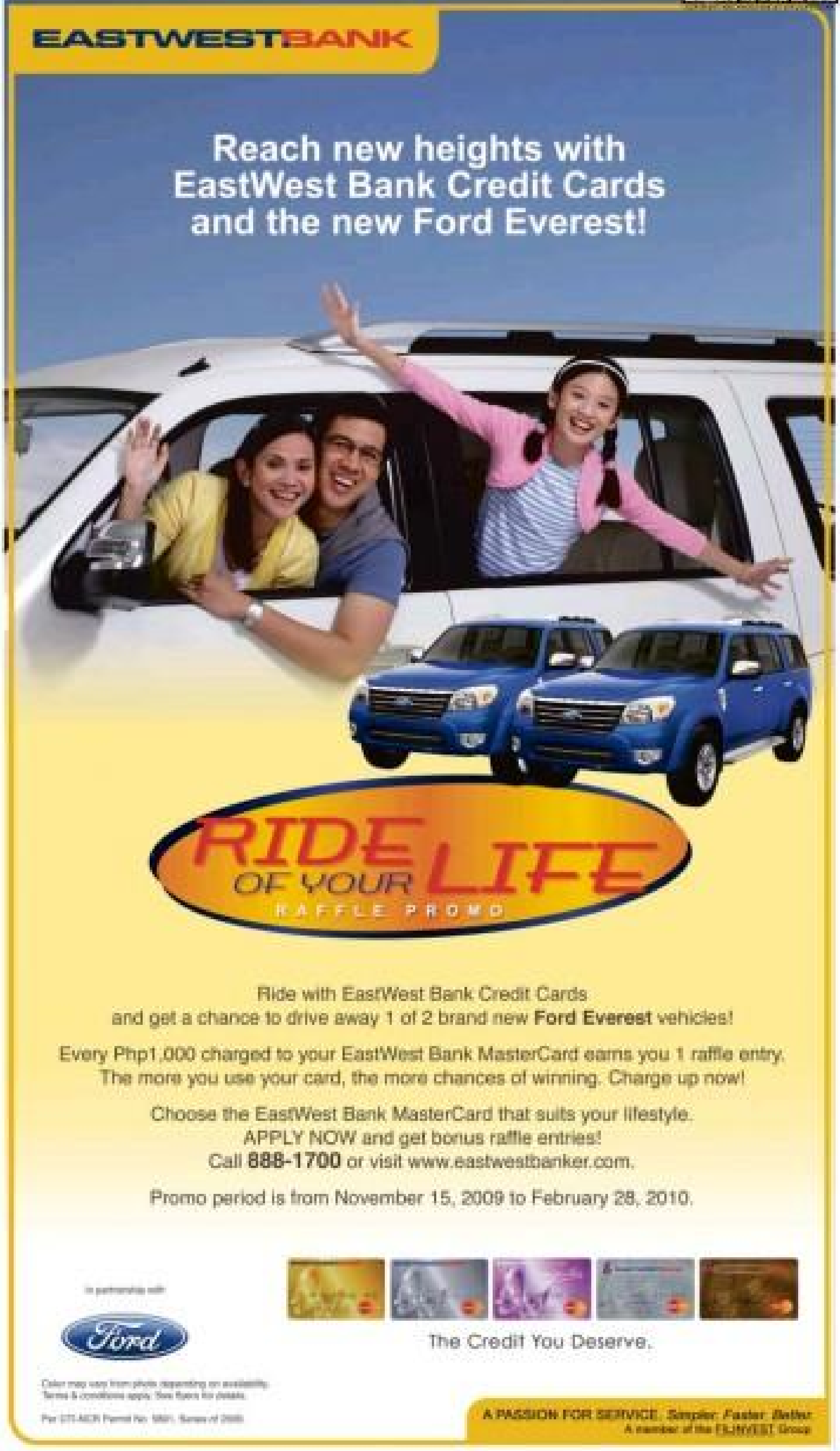


For countless occasions, we have seen Mindanao portrayed in many downbeat ways: terrorism, rebellion, kidnapping and just recently, political violence. This has been the sort of countenance Mindanao seems to pervade to the world.

The business community of Mindanao continuously tries to counter this and promote the true image of Mindanao as an ideal tourism and investment destination, however, incidents such as the Maguindanao carnage retard the gains we have painstakingly achieved in this arena.

But instead of yielding in, we see these events as our impetus to strive for the betterment of Mindanao. Thus, we would like to express our gratitude to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, particularly, the units in Eastern and Central Mindanao, for generating an improved security situation especially in Maguindanao and neighboring regions.

We see AFP's and PNP's commendable actions in Maguindanao as initial steps leading towards reshaping the image of the whole Mindanao region. For our soldiers and policemen, keep up the good deeds! You have our support.


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From page B1

[illegible]

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to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi

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PELAC Balanced Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]
Principal Protect 1	[illegible]	[illegible]
Principal Protect 2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Principal Protect 3	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TANDUAY-ABSOLUT-MITSUBISHI INAUGURATE JOINT CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM PROJECT





[illegible]

The first and largest Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project in the Philippines involving the private manufacturing sector, was inaugurated last August 28, 2009 with a "fiesta" like atmosphere at the Absolut Chemicals Inc. (ACI) Plant in Lian, Batangas. The CDM Project was undertaken under the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 wherein all developed country signatories committed to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by 2012. Under this arrangement, advanced economies are allowed to invest in projects that reduce emissions in developing nations as a substitute to more cost prohibitive emission reduction projects in their home countries. The Kyoto Protocol was organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This latest CDM project entailed the construction of a high-rate thermophilic anaerobic digester and covered lagoon intended to catch methane gas from the wastewater discharged by ACI. The joint undertaking was made possible by the collaborative efforts of Tanduay Distillers, Inc., Absolut Chemicals Inc. and Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan.



[illegible]

Under the agreement, Mitsubishi Corporation will finance the construction of the digester and covered lagoon while Tanduay, through its subsidiary, ACI will oversee the construction and maintenance of the facility. For this facility Mitsubishi pledged US$2 Million with assistance from other contractors and environment oriented groups.

The inauguration was attended by no less than the Chairman of Tanduay Holdings, Dr. Lucio Tan and his wife Carmen Tan. Other guests included Mr. Wilson T. Young, President and Chief Operating Officer of Tanduay Holdings, and key officers of Tanduay as well as the gracious Hon. Mayor of Lian, Ms. Ditas Vergara. The Mitsubishi Corporation and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources were represented by Mr. [illegible], VP and General Manager and DENR Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio, respectively.





[illegible]

The inauguration also captured Tanduay's and Mitsubishi Corporation's ardent desire to sustain environmental health in the country and across the globe. The inauguration activities involved not only the officers and staff of ACI but also the community of Lian as schoolchildren and plant employees provided dance numbers in bright costumes to the delight of the project proponents and guests.

Dr. Lucio Tan was pleased to be part of the CDM project as part of his personal and corporate efforts to contribute to the preservation of Mother Earth and the upliftment of environmental health and stewardship in the country. The CDM was an added boost to ACI's and Tanduay's continuing programs toward waste recycling and the production of biogas. Undersecretary Ignacio cited the project as a classic model for social and environmental responsibility and a concrete step to arrest the onslaught of global warming and mitigate the ill effects of climate change.



SM starts P2.7-B Two-Ecom Center

SM LAND, THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY development and management arm of SM Investments Corp., announced the start of the development of its P2.7-billion Two-Ecom Center with the award to [illegible] Corp. of the contract to build it.

This will be the second Ecom Tower to rise within the 67-hectare Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City. Once completed, Two EcomCenter will complement the One Ecom Tower—home to tenants predominantly technology-based, analytics and business process outsourcing centers.

The project will have a gross floor area of 138,000 square meters. Two-EComCenter will be made up of two 11-story towers that are connected by a 2-story bridgeway. The structure features four-level podium that provides commercial and retail areas, spacious indoor parking, and a landscaped garden.

"Currently, the business environment is clustered in Makati and Ortigas areas. What SM Land is offering is an alternative business and entertainment district amidst a spectacular [illegible]," [illegible] Rafael, SM Land senior vice president, said.

"Two-EcomCenter is another distinct development, so, we wanted a top-class contractor that has the experience and technology to execute our vision," Rafael said.

[illegible]

Chong Hua Hospital receives international accreditation



[illegible]

IT'S OFFICIAL.

Chong Hua Hospital, one of the region's most well-known medical institutions, is now one of the hospitals that comply with the high standards set by an international accreditation body.

With flying colors, Chong Hua Hospital passed an intense five-day accreditation survey hospitalwide by Joint Commission International (JCI), a not-for-profit organization based in the US that evaluates the quality of patient care and services practiced in hospitals worldwide.

The oldest running accreditation body for hospitals, JCI has accredited more than 300 public and private hospitals in almost 40 countries. It is tasked to screen and give accreditation to hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, care continuum services, medical transport organizations, and primary care services.

Chong Hua Hospital is the first outside Metro Manila to have been granted with the organization's stamp of approval and only the third in the country to be accredited by JCI, along with St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City and The Medical City in Pasig City.

From October 19 to 23, inspectors from JCI evaluated the hospital's practices based on measurable benchmarks.

The accreditation body notified the hospital that they passed the evaluation late last month. "It usually takes 60 days from the last date of survey for the results to come out, but we are proud to say that on Oct. 30, 2009, just seven days after the last date of survey, we already got an e-mail informing us that we made it," said Dr. Mary Noreen Chua during a press conference held last December 3. Dr. Chua heads the steering committee for the JCI accreditation preparedness.

Coincidentally, Chong Hua Hospital is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year.

Established in 1909, the hospital is a fully accredited, non-profit general hospital dedicated to deliver excellent medical care. Located along Fuente Osmeña, Cebu City, Chong Hua Hospital builds on its strengths as a health care leader to provide a full spectrum of services including prevention, primary care, specialty care, acute and long term care in almost all the fields of medicine.

To know more, log on to www.chonghua.com.ph.

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SOME of the Blogwatch bloggers.



A camera with a phone

By Daniel L. Lucas



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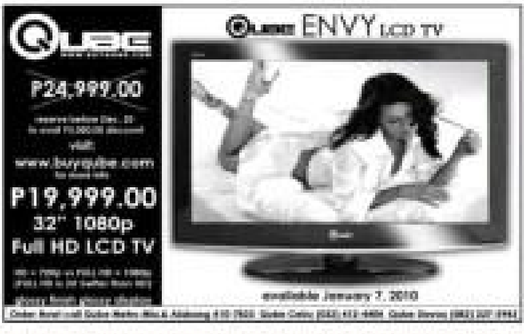
BUSINESS *Monday*

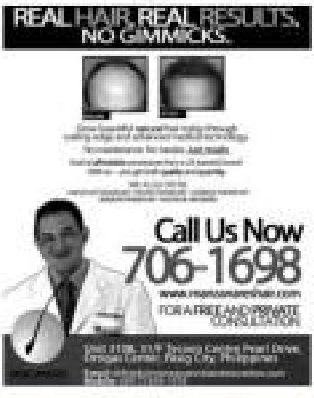
With Porsche, workers shift to life's fast lane









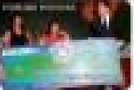


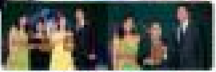


FERN MAKES REACHING FOR A MILLION DREAMS POSSIBLE









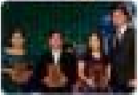




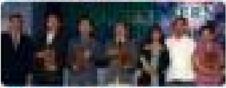


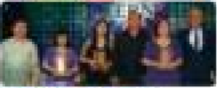




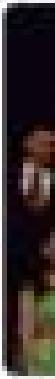




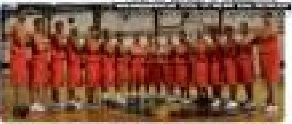












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BUSINESS Monday

Check your bright lights

Governments key in renewable energy drive, says Shell exec

Hope for change

New future



ROYAL Dutch CEO Peter Voser

Innovation

The whys and wherefores of governance

MAPping the Future



Defining objectives

Selection

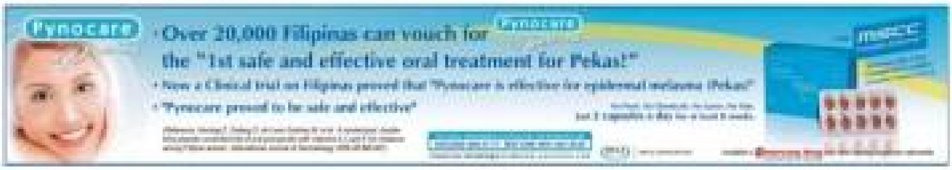
One size does not fit all





LIFESTYLE Arts&Books





'Amazing' international art photos in Manila



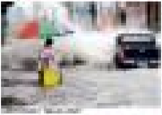
By Marc Cosco
Contributor

Silverlens is showing striking contributions from top photographers around the world to the Singapore international photofest



Philippine Art Awards proclaim Visayan regional winners





Epson color imaging contest 2009 winners bared





'Amazing' international art photos ...



UE alumnus wins award in Florence Biennale





Philippine Art Awards proclaim...







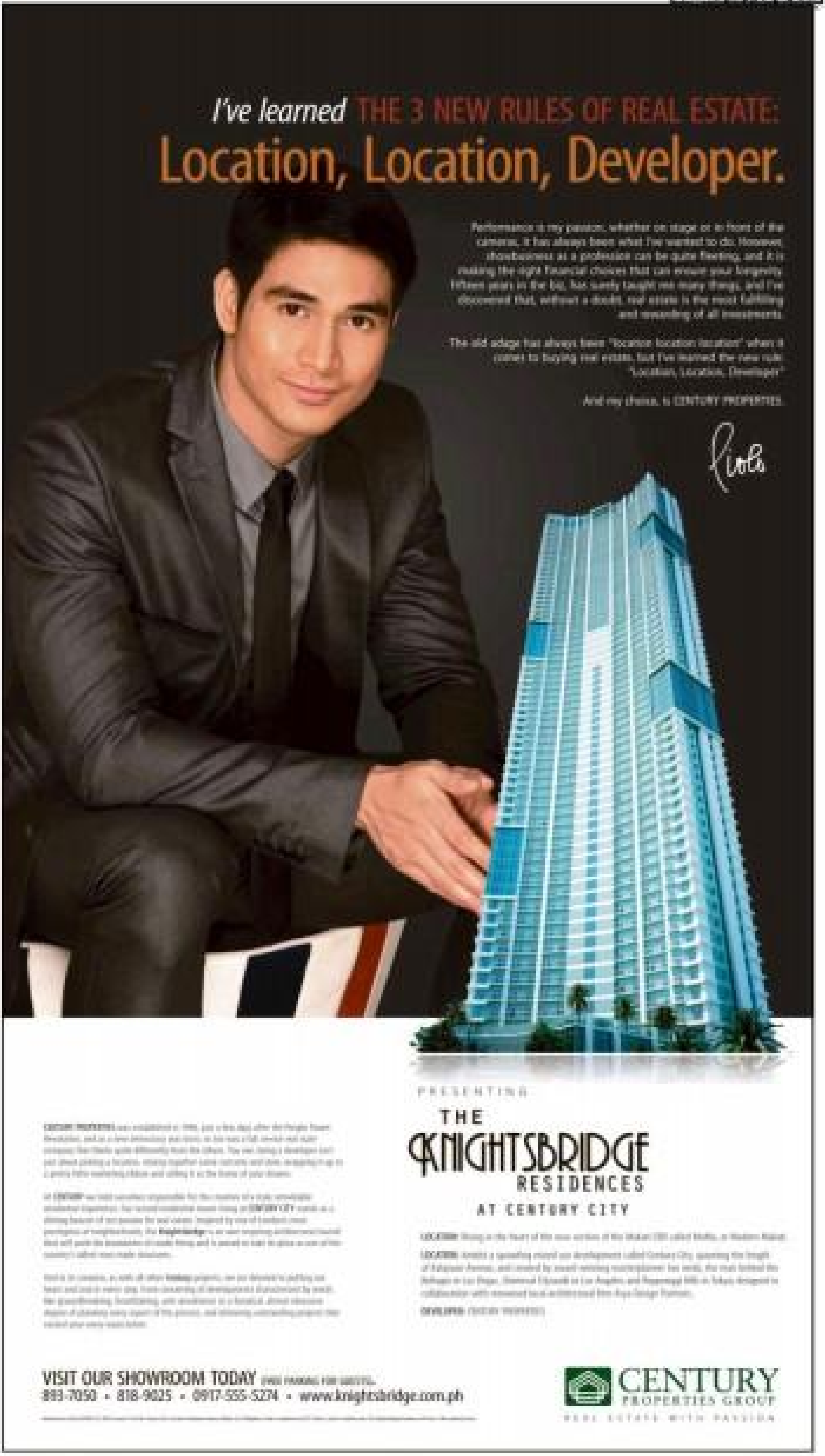
War and conquest in 'Conquistador'



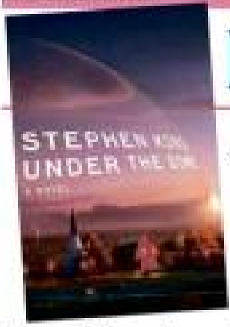







I've learned THE 3 NEW RULES OF REAL ESTATE:
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Performance is my passion, whether on stage or in front of the cameras. It has always been what I've wanted to do. However, showbusiness as a profession can be quite fleeting, and it is making the right financial choices that can ensure your longevity. Fifteen years in the biz, has surely taught me many things, and I've discovered that, without a doubt, real estate is the most fulfilling and rewarding of all investments.
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'Under the Dome' ever terrifies because of what comes natural rather than supernatural to the poor people of isolated Chester's Mill

New Stephen King work is horror epic

By Ruel S. De Vera



[illegible]







GARFIELD
BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY





JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



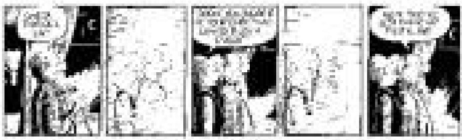
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT



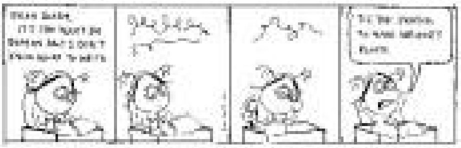
TULDOK



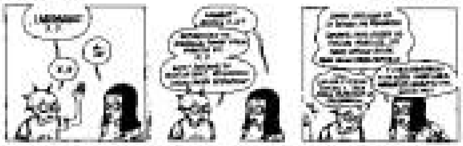
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON



ATOMO AND ROBOT



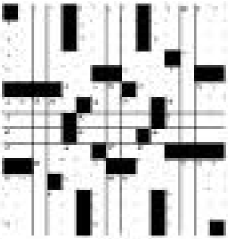
KIKO MACHINE

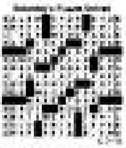


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN





HOROSCOPE

ARIES

LEO

SAGITTARIUS

TAURUS

VIRGO

CAPRICORN

GEMINI

LIBRA

AQUARIUS

CANCER

SCORPIO

PISCES

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

2	9		5				7	3
	8			2			5	
		6	7		3			
		9	1				6	
	3			6			1	
	4				7	2		
			3		5	6		
	5			9			3	
1	6				2		9	4

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.conceptispuzzles.com

Answer to previous puzzle

'Art on Wheels' stamp wins international award

THE PHILIPPINE TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY has won first prize again at the 40th Union World Conference on Lung Health organized IUATLD (International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease) in Cancun, Mexico.

The winning design, "Art on Wheels," was rendered by various Filipino artists.

The use of raising money for TB treatment by selling Christmas-theme stamps is a time-honored tradition that was started by a Danish postman named Einar Holboell in 1904.

Since then, other countries have adopted the tradition.

The contest is held every year at the World Conference of Lung Health. The Philippines has won the first prize in 2005 and 2009, the second in 2004 and 2007, and the third in 2006.





Philpost issues traditional Christmas carol stamps

THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORP. HAS issued a commemorative stamp for Christmas inspired by "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit," a traditional Cebuano song recast with Pilipino lyrics by National Artist Levi Celerio, announced postmaster general [illegible].

"Ang Pasko ay Sumapit" was originally composed by Vicente D. Rubi and Mariano Vestil in 1933 as "Kasadya ning Taknaa" ("How Blissful is this Season"). A version of the song in Tagalog was used by [illegible] as marching song for [illegible] in 1938. Celerio also wrote Tagalog lyrics to the song during the 1950s. The song is still sung today by Filipinos in Catholic churches in the Philippines and abroad.

New Stephen . . .

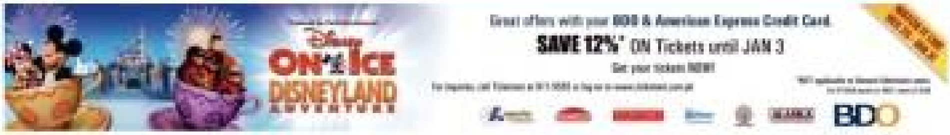
From page D1

ory. "Under The Dome" is King trying something different, albeit with the tricks he is familiar with. The result is a truly solid yet expansive and nuanced portrait of small-town America touched by the dark within and beyond. Beware, because Stephen King is still on his thrones and looking for new ways to scare you: "This is the end of October and in Chester's Mill, October is the cruelest month, mixing memory with desire. There are no lilacs in this dead land. The moon looks down on ruination and finds it [illegible]."

Available in hardcover from National Book Store.









Gift book ideas this Christmas









LIFESTYLE Arts & Books



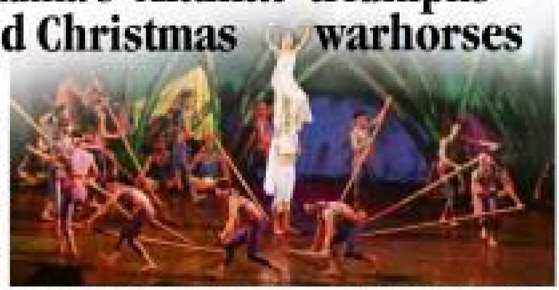
Ballet Manila's 'Alamat' triumphs over old Christmas warhorses

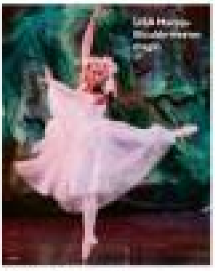
From one generation to another, Filipino jazz torch is passed





Ballet Manila's 'Alamat' triumphs over old Christmas warhorses





By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THERE IS NO WAY you can avoid Christmas on the dance scene without getting stuck with the likes of the perennial "Nutcracker" and several versions of "Peter Pan" in between.

Element of freshness

Totally surprising

Clearly a triumph

A FIRST IN NEW YORK

From one generation to another, Filipino jazz torch is passed

By Dennis Clemente
Contributor

NEW YORK—IN THE incredible Filipino-American Jazz concert at the Triad on Dec. 11, one talented Filipino jazz artist after another ...

It's a musical exchange. Filipino-Americans come to the Philippines to share their talent, while Filipino migrants and visitors extend theirs in the States, so they can have a wider playground to play in





Legendary singer

New crossroads

New generation

Founding member

UST singers rock Nueva Ecija

UST Singers rock Nueva Ecija

Made concert inaugurates Holy Angel University chapel

Madrigals at Holy Angel





MADRIGAL Singers in the chapel of Holy Angel University

UST SINGERS

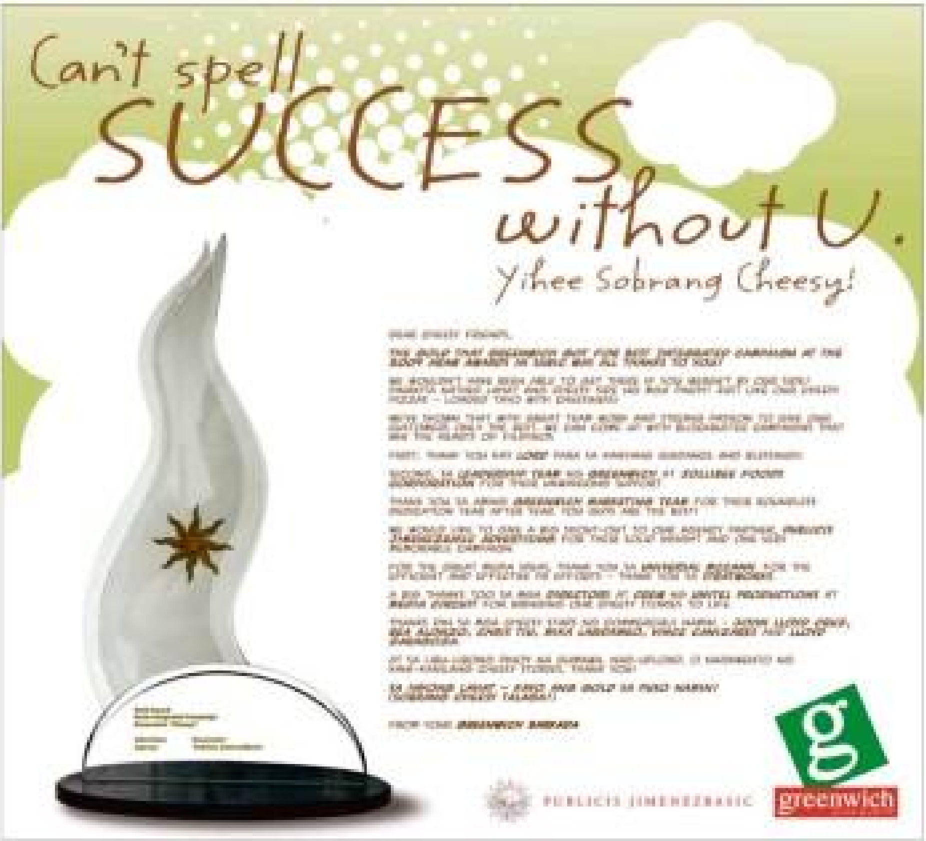






Coyiutos, a powerful musical tandem





ENTERTAINMENT

Charo Santos-Concio

WISH LIST

[illegible]





SE Asia debut for Disney act

[illegible]

METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

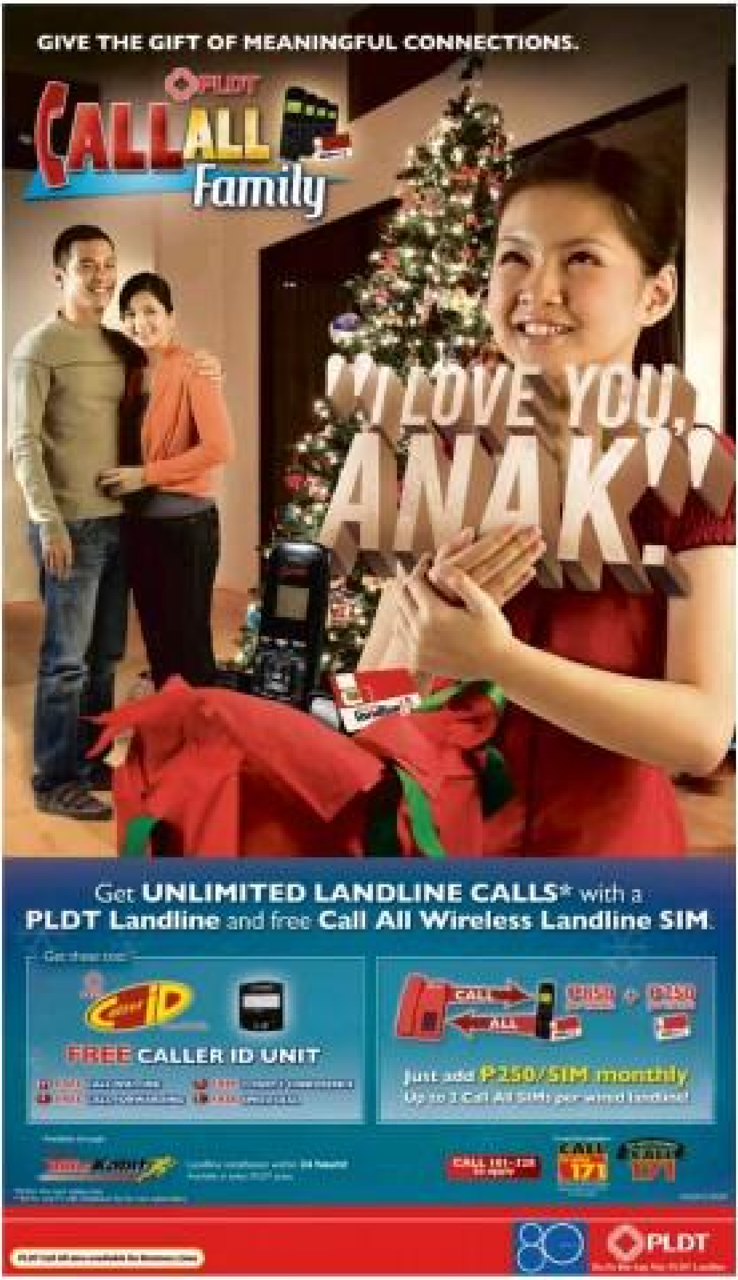


ALL-STAR cast for latest "Mano Po."

[illegible]

Mano Po 6: A Mother's Love

[illegible]



visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA



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SM Mall of Asia - 5:00 PM

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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 AVATAR
6 AVATAR DIGITAL 3D
7 BAD LIEUTENANT
8 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
9 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
10 NINJA ASSASSIN

MANILA

1 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
6 NINJA ASSASSIN
7 AVATAR

METRO EAST

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
7 AVATAR
8 NINJA ASSASSIN

NOVALICHES

1 AVATAR
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 AVATAR

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

Watch this movie in Movieworld's DIGITAL 3D CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema 6

MOVIEWORLD

MTRCB Rating: PG13



STA. ROSA

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

LIPA

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 NINJA ASSASSIN
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

DASMARIÑAS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR

STARMILLS

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
5 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

IMUS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

ANGELES

1 AVATAR
2 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS/ TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 NINJA ASSASSIN
4 AVATAR

TACLOBAN

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR

DUMAGUETE

1 AVATAR
2 NINJA ASSASSIN

BACOLOD

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 AVATAR
4 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
5 NINJA ASSASSIN / INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

ILOILO

1 AVATAR
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 AVATAR
4 AVATAR
5 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

GENSAN

1 AVATAR
2 AVATAR
3 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

ILOCOS NORTE (NOW OPEN!)

1 AVATAR
2 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
3 A CHRISTMAS CAROL



SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY at all MOVIEWORLD branches

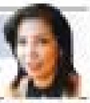

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Is Pacman eyeing Michelle Madrigal?

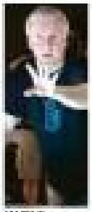
DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



James Cameron on 'Avatar'

TAKE FIVE



JAMES Cameron





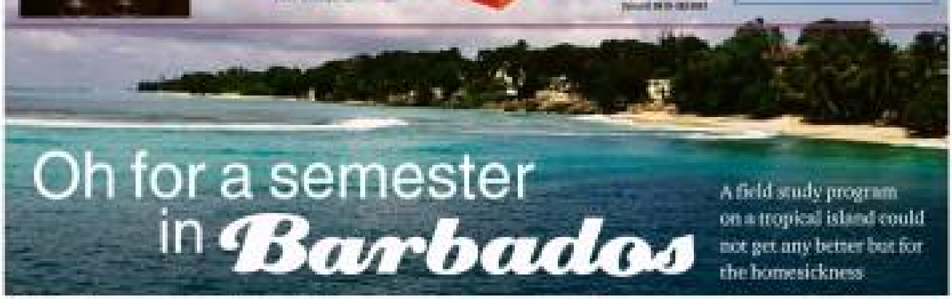
SE Asia debut …





LEARNING

- **Solutions** to Christmas puzzles in Eureka / G3
- **Holiday gifts** for budding patriots / G4



Oh for a semester in Barbados

A field study program on a tropical island could not get any better but for the homesickness





Colonial rule vestiges





Little Britain

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DLSU-D graduates soar high in 2009 board exams

Jose Rizal University granted Autonomous Status

PERPETUAL ROTC HOMECOMING HELD





UP MANILA OUTSTANDING AWARDEES

EUREKA! Queena N. Lee-Chua

Solutions to Christmas puzzles

Math challenge

Michael Jackson lives on

Computer camp for visually impaired

Public school teachers to be trained in ICT



Oh for a semester in Barbados



CRICKET, anyone?

Laid-back life

Excursions

'Sing,' etc.







[illegible]





GIFTS FOR THE CAMPUS CROWD

IF YOU'RE PLAYING SANTA TO A BUNCH of college kids, you can't go wrong with T-shirts. Check out the pop tees and patriotic wear at Pinoy Lab stores. And here's your chance to spread goodwill: Proceeds from the sales go to the Bohol Eco-Cultural Project.

[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]

Jolly Christmas for typhoon-hit schools

[illegible]



QUIZ BEES

[illegible]

Enchanting science for holiday break

ENCHANTED KINGDOM (EK) has opened the Philippine Science Centrum Traveling Exhibit (PSC) Module 1.

[illegible]



PLAYING with a crystal ball

Outstanding teacher is a milk drinker

[illegible]





[illegible]

CLASS ACT



CHANGE STARTS WITH ME

[illegible]